

Digital History

ASH 3931 Sect: 02AA

Dr. Michelle Campos
Office: 234 Keene-Flint
Office Hours: M 1-3pm
E-mail: mcampos@ufl.edu

University of Florida
Spring 2016
MWF Period 3 (9:35-10:25)
Flint 111

Course Description:

Interdisciplinary in nature, 21st century “digital history” brings together digital technology and historical inquiry in each of the key stages of study: research, analysis, and publication/dissemination. Among the questions we will consider: How has the digital revolution changed the way that history is studied, written, and practiced? What new digital tools are historians using, and what new interpretations and insights are opened up by these tools? How are historians using technology to reach broader audiences for their work?

In addition to studying this exciting new scholarship, students also will be introduced to a number of digital tools and methods used by historians and other humanists and social scientists. Students will then put those tools to use in creating, researching, and presenting a collaborative digital history project dealing with Islam in America.

Please note that this course is both hands-on and collaborative. We will be learning with—and from—each other. In addition to active preparation, participation, and cooperation, you should have a DIY attitude in order to succeed in and enjoy the course. We will be trying new things, figuring things out, making mistakes, and recalibrating on a regular basis.

Schedule:

Week 1 Introduction to Digital History

1/6, 1/8

Read:

- Daniel J. Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, "Introduction: Promises and Perils of Digital History," in *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, and Presenting the Past on the Web*
- Douglas Seefeldt and William G. Thomas, "What is Digital History?" *Perspectives on History*, May 2009. [Link](#)
- "Interchange: The Promise of Digital History," *Journal of American History* 95/2 (2008). [CW Files]

Week 2 Digital Sources, Digital Archives

1/11, 1/13, 1/15

Read:

- Daniel J. Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, and Presenting the Past on the Web*, chapter 1
- Roy Rosenzweig, *Clio Wired: The Future of the Past in the Digital Age*, chapters 1, 8, 9, 11

Assignment: In a 250-500 word post to the class discussion board, study and evaluate one online archive. Due on Friday 1/15, by 9 am.

Week 3 Wikipedia, Blogs, and the Changing Nature of Public History

~~1/18~~ (MLK Day), 1/20, 1/22

Friday 1/22: Guest speaker: Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

Read:

- Roy Rosenzweig, *Clio Wired: The Future of the Past in the Digital Age*, chapters 2-3
- Robert S. Wolff, "The Historian's Craft, Popular Memory, and Wikipedia," in *Writing History in the Digital Age: A Born-Digital, Open-Review Volume*, ed. Jack Dougherty and Kristen Nawrotzki, [Link](#)
- Morgan Currie, "The Feminist Critique: Mapping Controversy in Wikipedia," in *Understanding Digital Humanities*

Assignment: Pick one blog from the Public History module and write an assessment. 250-500 word post to the class discussion board, due on Monday, 1/25, 9 am.

Week 4 Islam in America Part I

1/25, 1/27, 1/29

Topics: Muslim Slaves in Colonial America

Early migration history

Sources

Readings: TBA

Lab: Web publishing: OMEKA/Neatline

Assignment: Review one OMEKA-powered website listed in the Visualization Module

Begin compiling sources on Islam in America

Week 5 **Spatial History**

2/1, 2/3, 2/5

Spatial Analysis parts 1-5, Stanford University's Tooling Up for Digital Humanities [Link](#)

- Richard White, "What is Spatial History?" Spatial History Project, February 2010 [Link](#)
- Jo Guldi, "What is the Spatial Turn?" and "The Spatial Turn in History" [Link](#)
- Peter K. Bol, "Creating a GIS for the History of China," in *Placing History*, ed. Anne Kelly Knowles
- Geoff Cunfer, "Scaling the Dust Bowl," in *Placing History*, ed. Anne Kelly Knowles
- John R. Logan et al, "Mapping America in 1880: The Urban Transition Historical GIS Project," *Historical Methods* 44/1 (2011)

Feb 3 - Guest lecturer: Dr. Hélène Huet, European Studies Librarian

Assignment: Assess one spatial history project (located in the Spatial History module of the course website). 250-500 word post to the class discussion board, due on Monday, 2/8, 9 am.

Week 6 **Labs: Spatial History**

2/8, 2/10, 2/12

Tools: Google Earth and QGIS

Lesson 1: <http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/googlemaps-googleearth>

Lesson 2: <http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/qgis-layers>

Lesson 3: <http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/vector-layers-qgis>

Lesson 4: <http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/georeferencing-qgis>

Week 7 Text Analysis

2/15, 2/17, ~~2/19~~ (UNC)

Read:

- Text Analysis, Parts 1-8, Stanford University's Tooling Up for Digital Humanities [Link](#)
- Ted Underwood, "Topic Modeling Made Just Simple Enough," April 7, 2012.
- Megan Brett, "Topic Modeling: A Basic Introduction", *Journal of Digital Humanities*.
- Robert K. Nelson, Introduction to *Mining the Dispatch*
- Cameron Blevins, "Topic Modeling Martha Ballard's Diary", *history*, January 4, 2010.

Week 8 Labs: Text Mining

2/22, 2/24, 2/26

Tools: Voyant and Mallet

Survey of American press for discussion of Muslims/Islam

Week 9 Spring Break – ENJOY!

2/29, 3/2, 3/4

Week 10 Social Network Analysis

3/7, ~~3/9~~ (UF conf), 3/11

Guest Speaker: Dr. Chris McCarty

Read:

- Scott Weingart, "Demystifying Networks," <http://www.scottbot.net/HIAL/?p=6279>
- Marten Duering, "Cheat-Sheet: Social Network Analysis for Humanists," <http://cvcedhlab.hypotheses.org/106>
- Caroline Winterer, "Where is America in the Republic of Letters?" *Modern Intellectual History* 9/3 (Nov 2012)
- Shin-Kap Han, "The Other Ride of Paul Revere: The Brokerage Role in the Making of the American Revolution," *Mobilization* 14/2 (2009)
- Emily Erikson and Sampsa Samila, "Social Networks and Port Traffic in Early Modern Overseas Trade," *Social Science History* 39/2 (Summer 2015)
- Tom Lynch, Social Networks and Archival Context Project: A Case Study of Emerging Cyberinfrastructure, *Digital Humanities Quarterly* v 8 n 3 (2014) [Link](#)

Assignment: Assess one online social network project (in the SN module of the class website). 250-500 word post to the class discussion board, due on Monday, 2/8, 9 am.

Week 11 Labs: Social Network Analysis

3/14, 3/16, 3/18

Read:

<http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/>

Martin Grandjean, "GEPHI-Introduction to Network Analysis and Visualization"

<http://www.martingrandjean.ch/gephi-introduction/>

Tool: GEPHI

Week 12 Islam in America Part II

3/21, 3/23, 3/25

Topics: Black Islam

Late 20th c migrations

After 9/11

Readings: TBA

Week 13 Labs: Project Work

3/28, 3/30, 4/1

Helpful readings:

Digitization parts 1-4 in Stanford University's Tooling Up for Digital Humanities [Link](#)

Data Visualization parts 1-7 in Stanford University's Tooling Up for Digital Humanities [Link](#)

John Theibault, "Visualizations and Historical Arguments," in *Writing History in the Digital Age* [Link](#)

Daniel J. Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, and Presenting the Past on the Web*, chapters 3-4, 6

Week 14 Labs: Project work

4/4, 4/6, 4/8

Week 15 Labs: Project work

4/11, 4/13, ~~4/15~~ (Brown)

Week 16 Project Presentations

4/18, 4/20

Grades:

4 assignments posted to the class discussion board 40%

Final project 30%

Participation 30%

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

- **PLAGIARISM:** Students are expected to abide by the university academic honesty policy, which includes properly citing all sources used in your course assignments. When in doubt, cite! For more information, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>
- **SPECIAL NEEDS:** Should you have special medical needs, please discuss this with the course instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.
- **CONFIDENTIALITY:** Student records are confidential. UF views each student, not their parent(s), as the primary contact for all communication. For more information, see: www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpahub.html

Sources Related to Islam in America

Sylviane A. Diouf, Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas (1998) [on course reserve]

Omar ibn Said, A Muslim American Slave: The Life of Omar Ibn Said (2011) [on course reserve]

Karen I. Leonard, Muslims in the United States: The State of Research (2003) [on course reserve]

Yvonne Haddad and Jane Smith, eds. The Oxford Handbook of American Islam (2014) [on course reserve]

Edward E. Curtis IV, The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States (2008) [on course reserve]

Julianne Hammer and Omid Safi, eds. The Cambridge Companion to American Islam (2013) [on order]

Genevieve Abdo, Mecca and Main Street: Muslim Life in America After 9/11 (2006) [on course reserve]

Carl Ernst, ed. Islamophobia in America

Yvonne Y. Haddad and Jane Smith, eds., Muslim Communities in North America

Jane I. Smith, Islam in America (1999)

Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, Muslim Women in America: The Challenge of Islamic Identity Today (2011)

Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, Not Quite American? The Shaping of Arab and Muslim Identity in the United States (2004)